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## ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, Oct. 16.

Copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir JOHN THOMAS DUCKWORTH, K. B. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels at Jamaica, to WILLIAM MARSDEN, Esq. dated at Port Royal, the 26th of August 1804.

SIR,

You will herewith receive, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copies of two letters, reciting the capture of the Hirondele and Vautour French privateers, by his Majesty's ships Tartar and Fortunée; the former of which; I trust, their Lordships will think with me does high honour to the officers and crews of the Tartar's boats, for their undaunted spirit and perseverance.

I am, &c.

J. T. DUCKWORTH.

His Majesty's Ship Tartar, off St Domingo, August 1. 1804.

SIR,

I have the honour to acquaint you, that, yesterday morning at dawn, standing in to leeward of Saona, a small sail was discovered from the mast-heads, to which I immediately gave chase, keeping as close to leeward of the island as possible, in order to prevent her escape that way, knowing the channel between that island (Saona) and St Domingo to be very narrow and intricate even for small vessels. About seven the chase was made out to be a schooner full of men, using her sweeps and every means possible to get off; from which circumstance supposing her to be a privateer, and perceiving her intention of attempting to escape through the beforementioned channel, I made all possible sail, and at eight o'clock got her within reach of the guns, which, from the short tacks I was obliged to make, was prevented from using to that advantage and effect I could have wished without losing ground, therefore, though several shot went over and through her sails, she still persevered in beating to windward until she had advanced near the centre of the channel, where, finding it impossible to proceed further, she came to an anchor under a reef of rocks, at which time (ten in the forenoon), having beat the ship up into six fathoms

[ Price 6d. ]

water, but deeming it imprudent to proceed further, and finding it would be almost impossible to destroy the vessel with the great guns, not being able to anchor, or to bring the broadsides to bear to advantage, from the short tacks we were obliged to make, without hazard to the ship; yet, judging it of importance to take or destroy the vessel by some means or other, I immediately hoisted three boats out, and sent them manned and armed, under the direction of Lieutenant Mullah (second Lieutenant), assisted by Lieutenant Lockyer (third), with several midshipmen, all volunteers on the occasion.

The instant the boats put off from the ship, the schooner hoisted French colours, fired a gun, and warped her broadside towards them; as the boats advanced, the privateer commenced firing grape from her great guns, and on their nearer approach opened a fire of musketry; yet, notwithstanding, and a strong sea breeze against the boats, Lieutenant Mullah, in the most intrepid and gallant manner possible, pulled up in the face of several discharges of grape, and a heavy fire of musketry from fifty men drawn up round the deck, boarded and carried her. It is impossible to speak too highly, or sufficiently to express my sense of the bravery and intrepid conduct of Lieutenants Mullah and Lockyer, as well as the petty officers, seamen, and marines employed under them; considering the disadvantage under which they were obliged to attack, and the preparation the enemy had made for defence, being nearly noon day; nor can I too much commend the spirit and alacrity with which they volunteered their services on the occasion, as well as the whole of the ship's company.

I am happy to add, that only two men were wounded, one seaman and one marine (badly); the French lost nine killed and six wounded, besides three missing, supposed to have been drowned in attempting to swim on shore; the wounded I sent to St Domingo by a flag of truce this morning. The remainder I keep on board,

there being no English prisoners to exchange in lieu. The privateer proves to be the Hirondele, Captain La Place, with ten four pounders and fifty men, and two days out from St Domingo. She had run most of the last war, and all the present, frequently chased, but, from her fast sailing, always escaped.

I am, &c.

KEITH MAXWELL.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. T. Duckworth, K. B. &c.

His Majesty's ship Fortunée, off Altavella, August 10. 1804.

SIR,

I have the honour to acquaint you, that running down the fourth side of St Domingo with his Majesty's ship under my command, disguised agreeable to your directions, on the 10th inst. off Altavella, I was chased by Le Vautour felucca privateer, mounting one nine-pounder gun, and carrying fifty-four men, which approaching nearly within gun shot before they discovered their mistake, was captured after two hours chase.

I have the honour to be, &c.

H. VANSITTART.

To Rear-Admiral Sir J. T. Duckworth, K. B. Commander in Chief, &c.

Copy of another letter from Sir JOHN THOMAS DUCKWORTH, K. B. Vice-Admiral of the Blue, &c. to WILLIAM MARSDEN, Esq. dated at Port Royal the 30th of August 1804.

SIR,

I transmit you herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a letter from Captain Marshall, of his Majesty's brig Pelican, relating the capture of the national schooner La Laurette; and am, &c.

J. T. DUCKWORTH.

His Majesty's sloop Pelican, at sea, August 24. 1804.

SIR,

I have the honour to acquaint you that, on the morning of the 23d instant, Cape Niaze bearing N. by E. six or seven leagues, a strange sail was discovered in the N. E. to which I immediately gave chase, and have the satisfaction to inform you, that after a chase of six hours came up with and captured her, after dischar-

